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SOURCE

1. Kwangsi Military District officials and the Kwangsi Provincial Government, acting on a resolution passed by a meeting of its top level cadres in late December 1950 and on instructions issued by the Chinese Communist Government outlining the principals for organizing local militia, have virtually completed organization of the Kwangsi militia; 150,000 militia have already been organized and a goal of 200,000 has been set for the end of June.

Recruitment of Militia

2. The individuals selected for militia duty are usually poor peasants with very little education. After they have been selected for the Peasants Union or the local cadres, they are organized into small teams known as "village platoon" or "rural platoon". At this stage they render local services without divorcing themselves from their normal productive activities. After these groups have had three months or more of thought screening, Communist cadres petition the Hsien governments to organize several of these platoons into a company and to issue firearms to these groups. Companies formed in this manner are placed under a hsien battalion to receive military training. After two or three months' training the militiamen are sent back to their homes where they assume local defense duties and assist troops stationed in those areas whenever necessary. At the time when the militia units are incorporated into battalions on the hsien level, they have been separated from normal productive occupations and must live on supplies furnished by the hsien government.

Organization

3. A militia regiment is the largest organizational unit below the Military District level. It consists of 4-5 battalions; it is placed under the jurisdiction of the "Regional Administrator's Office" and concurrently under the command and direction of the appropriate military sub-district. Militia battalions, consisting of 3-4 companies, are the next unit below the regiment and are placed under the control of the hsien governments. Militia companies normally consist of three platoons, subordinate to the battalions. Militia companies are usually stationed at the seat of the hsien government. Platoons, each having between 40 and 50 men according

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to the density of local population, are the units below the company. In Kwangsi there are ten "Regional Administrator's Offices", each of which controls one militia regiment. Each hsien, depending on its size and population, controls one or two militia battalions. Ten militia regiments have been organized in Kwangsi; they are divided into 151 battalions totalling about 100,000 men. These figures consist only of those units which have been issued firearms. In addition, militia units under the hsien governments and under control of the Peasants' Unions which have not yet been incorporated into units of higher governmental level, consist of 1,500 companies totalling about 75,000 men. These have not yet been issued firearms.

Equipment

4. No firearms are issued to men of militia units which have not been incorporated into "hsien battalions" or "regiments under direct control of Regional Administrator's Office". These units, in discharging their temporary defence duties, use crude weapons such as knives, spears and swords. When militia units are incorporated into battalions, the men are armed with some old rifles and given a limited amount of ammunition. Only when units are organized into regiments are they equipped with machine guns and more ammunition. Normally militiamen must provide their own uniforms although shoes and caps are furnished by the government. They will not be issued uniforms and weapons similar to regular Chinese Communist troops until they are incorporated into the armed units of the Provincial Military Regiments.

Training

5. As soon as the Chinese Communists finished their anti-bandit campaign in Kwangsi March 1951, they immediately began to organize militia and to train them. In late April the first group, about 12,000 men, completed the two months' training course. Those presently undergoing training number as follows:¹

Kweilin	5,000 men
Liuchou	4,000 men
Ishan (108-38;24-33)	7,000 men
Wuming (108-15;23-12)	over 3,000 men
Yulin (110-08;22-38)	over 4,000 men
Kueip'ing (110-05;23-24)	3,000 men

The training of these militiamen is scheduled for completion the end of June.

1. Comment. These figures do not include the four hsien in the Ch'inlien (欽廉) area of Kwangsi.

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